

Cherokee County Department of Social Services

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2021

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly called and held on January 19, 2021, at 6:35 P.M., via Zoom.

Present were:

Dan Eichenbaum, Chair

Gary Westmoreland, Member

Cal Stiles, Member

Randy Phillips, Member

Jan Griggs, Member

Darryl Brown, County Attorney

Cindy Palmer, Business Officer

Penny Ray, Cherokee Scout

Staff present were:

Amanda Tanner-McGee, DSS Director

Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney

Amanda Rhodes, Clerk to the Board

Mr. Eichenbaum called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M., and Amanda Rhodes, Clerk to the Board recorded the minutes.

II. Modification of Agenda

There was no modification to the agenda.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Stiles made a motion to adopt the agenda, with Mr. Phillips seconding the motion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved the agenda.

IV. Public Forum

There was no Board or public comments or questions.

V. Approval of Minutes

December 15, 2020

Mrs. Griggs made a motion to accept, Mr. Phillips seconding the motion, with a unanimous vote the Board approved the December 15, 2020 DSS Board meeting minutes.

VI. Old Business

A. DHHS MOU Rebuttal

Director McGee provided the Board with a proposed rebuttal letter to the DHHS Memorandum of Understanding. Director McGee, Attorney Duncan, and Attorney Brown discussed the concerns with the District Court System, specifically in Cherokee County, and how it is a “system level barrier” that has contributed to the poor performance in child welfare permanency outcomes as outlined in the MOU. The Board also discussed collaborating with the Smokey 7 Directors and Attorneys to propose another letter to address the most prevalent concerns entailed in the MOU. Mr. Eichenbaum made a motion to approve sending the letter and coordinating with the Smokey 7, with Mr. Stiles seconding the motion, with all in favor.

VII. New Business

a. Vaya Health/DSS One Home Initiative

Director McGee briefly updated the Board about the One Home Initiative which is a collaborative between VAYA Health, Youth Villages, and the Cherokee County Department of Social Services to provide wrap around services to foster parents and

will allow foster care children to remain in Cherokee County. Mrs. Griggs approved the DSS One Initiative, with Mr. Westmoreland seconding the motion, with all in favor of the DSS One Home Initiative.

VIII. Director's Report/ Statistical Report

Director McGee provided the Board with the December 2020 Statistical Report at the time of the meeting.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 P.M. with Mr. Stiles making a motion to adjourn, Mrs. Griggs seconding the motion, and all in favor.